

"(3) HUBZONE PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administration to carry out the program under section 31, \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 1998.";

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

"(3) HUBZONE PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administration to carry out the program under section 31, \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 1999.";

(3) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the following:

"(3) HUBZONE PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administration to carry out the program under section 31, \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2000.".

TITLE VII—SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS

SEC. 701. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are—

(1) to foster enhanced entrepreneurship among eligible veterans by providing increased opportunities;

(2) to vigorously promote the legitimate interests of small business concerns owned and controlled by eligible veterans; and

(3) to ensure that those concerns receive fair consideration in purchases made by the Federal Government.

SEC. 702. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **ELIGIBLE VETERAN.**—The term "eligible veteran" means a disabled veteran (as defined in section 4211(3) of title 38, United States Code).

(2) **SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY ELIGIBLE VETERANS.**—The term "small business concern owned and controlled by eligible veterans" means a small business concern (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act)—

(A) that is at least 51 percent owned by 1 or more eligible veterans, or in the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by 1 or more eligible veterans; and

(B) whose management and daily business operations are controlled by eligible veterans.

SEC. 703. REPORT BY SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **STUDY AND REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall conduct a comprehensive study and submit to the Committees a final report containing findings and recommendations of the Administrator on—

(A) the needs of small business concerns owned and controlled by eligible veterans;

(B) the availability and utilization of Administration programs by small business concerns owned and controlled by eligible veterans;

(C) the percentage, and dollar value, of Federal contracts awarded to small business concerns owned and controlled by eligible veterans in the preceding 5 fiscal years; and

(D) methods to improve Administration and other agency programs to serve the needs of small business concerns owned and controlled by eligible veterans.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report under paragraph (1) shall include recommendations to Congress concerning the need for legislation and recommendations to the Office of Management and Budget, relevant offices within the Administration, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) **CONDUCT OF STUDY.**—In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator—

(1) may conduct surveys of small business concerns owned and controlled by eligible veterans and service disabled veterans, including those who have sought financial assistance or other services from the Administration;

(2) shall consult with the appropriate committees of Congress, relevant groups and or-

ganizations in the nonprofit sector, and Federal or State government agencies; and

(3) shall have access to any information within other Federal agencies that pertains to such veterans and their small businesses, unless such access is specifically prohibited by law.

SEC. 704. INFORMATION COLLECTION.

After the date of issuance of the report required by section 703(a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training and the Administrator, engage in efforts each fiscal year to identify small business concerns owned and controlled by eligible veterans in the United States. The Secretary shall inform each small business concern identified under this section that information on Federal procurement is available from the Administrator.

SEC. 705. STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS REPORT.

Section 303(b) of the Small Business Economic Policy Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 631b(b)) is amended by striking "and female-owned businesses" and inserting "female-owned, and veteran-owned businesses".

SEC. 706. LOANS TO VETERANS.

Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

"(8) The Administration may make loans under this subsection to small business concerns owned and controlled by disabled veterans (as defined in section 4211(3) of title 38, United States Code)."

SEC. 707. ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING, COUNSELING, AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE.

The Administrator shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that small business concerns owned and controlled by eligible veterans have access to programs established under the Small Business Act that provide entrepreneurial training, business development assistance, counseling, and management assistance to small business concerns, including, among others, the Small Business Development Center program and the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) program.

SEC. 708. GRANTS FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAMS.

Section 8(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (15), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in the first paragraph designated as paragraph (16), by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

(3) by striking the second paragraph designated as paragraph (16) and inserting the following:

"(17) to make grants to, and enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with, educational institutions, private businesses, veterans' nonprofit community-based organizations, and Federal, State, and local departments and agencies for the establishment and implementation of outreach programs for disabled veterans (as defined in section 4211(3) of title 38, United States Code)."

SEC. 709. OUTREACH FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS.

The Administrator, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, shall develop and implement a program of comprehensive outreach to assist eligible veterans, which program shall include business training and management assistance, employment and relocation counseling, and dissemination of information on veterans' benefits and veterans' entitlements.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATHAM, recognized Mr. TALENT and Mr. LAFALCE, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said amendment?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATHAM, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said amendment of the Senate to the amendment of the House was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said amendment to the amendment the house was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk notify the Senate thereof.

¶130.15 MICROCREDIT FOR SELF-RELIANCE

Mr. GILMAN moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1129) to establish a program to provide assistance for programs of credit and other assistance for microenterprises in developing countries, and for other purposes; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATHAM, recognized Mr. GILMAN and Mr. GEJDENSON, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATHAM, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. GILMAN demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATHAM, pursuant to clause 5, rule I, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

¶130.16 RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN GERMANY

Mr. GILMAN moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 22); as amended:

Whereas since World War II, Germany has been a friend and ally of the United States;

Whereas German government discrimination against members of minority religious groups, particularly against United States citizens, has the potential to harm the relationship between Germany and the United States;

Whereas artists from the United States associated with certain religious minorities have been denied the opportunity to perform, have been the subjects of boycotts, and have been the victims of a widespread and well-documented pattern and practice of discrimination by German Federal, State, local, and party officials;

Whereas the 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1996 United States Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights in Germany all noted government discrimination against members of the Church of Scientology in Germany;

Whereas the German State of Baden-Wuerttemberg barred Chic Corea, the Grammy Award-winning American jazz pianist, from performing his music during the